

What is Claimed is:

1. A method for deterring theft of electronic devices, comprising:
in response to an indication that a device is lost, receiving by a receiver of the device a disabling signal targeting the device remotely via a network; and
in response to receiving the disabling signal, electronically disabling the device via a component of the device that cannot be removed without destroying the device.
2. A method according to claim 1, wherein the network is at least one of a wireless network, a radio broadcast network and a smart personal objects technology (SPOT) network.
3. A method according to claim 1, further comprising:
in response to receiving the disabling signal, displaying a message via a display of the device.
4. A method according to claim 1, wherein said disabling includes electronically disabling the device by changing the status of at least one connection in the device from one of (a) open to closed and (b) closed to open.
5. A method according to claim 1, wherein said disabling includes electronically disabling at least one subcomponent of the device.
6. A method according to claim 1, wherein said component is a processor and said disabling includes electronically disabling the device by disabling operation of at least a portion of the processor.
7. A method according to claim 1, further comprising:
in response to receiving the disabling signal, transmitting information over at least one of (a) the network and (b) a second network to which the device is connected, said information providing a basis for resolving the location of the device.
8. A method according to claim 1, further including locally entering a pre-defined code to the device to re-enable operation of the device.

9. A method according to claim 1, further including transmitting said disabling signal at least one of (a) as plain text, (b) at least partially encrypted and (c) encoded according to a predetermined format.
10. A computer readable medium comprising computer executable modules having computer executable instructions for carrying out the method of claim 1.
11. A computing device comprising means for carrying out the method of claim 1.
12. A modulated data signal carrying computer executable instructions for performing the method of claim 1.
13. A method for deterring theft of an electronic device, comprising:
in response to a timeout condition associated with receiving a message via a network targeted to the device, electronically disabling the device via a component of the device that cannot be removed without destroying the device.
14. A method according to claim 13, wherein the network is at least one of a wireless network, a radio broadcast network and a smart personal objects technology (SPOT) network.
15. A method according to claim 13, further comprising:
in response to the timeout condition, displaying a message via a display of the device.
16. A method according to claim 13, wherein said disabling includes electronically disabling the device by changing the status of at least one connection in the device from one of (a) open to closed and (b) closed to open.
17. A method according to claim 13, wherein said disabling includes electronically disabling at least one subcomponent of the device.
18. A method according to claim 13, wherein said component is a processor and said disabling includes electronically disabling the device by disabling operation of at least a portion of the processor.

19. A method according to claim 13, further comprising:
in response to the timeout condition, transmitting information over at least one of (a) the network and (b) a second network to which the device is connected, said information providing a basis for resolving the location of the device.
20. A computer readable medium comprising computer executable modules having computer executable instructions for carrying out the method of claim 13.
21. A computing device comprising means for carrying out the method of claim 13.
22. A method for deterring theft of electronic devices, comprising:
in response to receiving an indication that a device is lost, adding a unique identifier associated with the device to a list; and
according to at least one predefined rule, periodically broadcasting a disabling message targeting the device via at least one transmitter of a network,
such that in response to receiving the disabling message, the device disables via a component of the device that cannot be removed without destroying the device.
23. A method according to claim 22, wherein the network is at least one of a wireless network, a radio broadcast network and a smart personal objects technology (SPOT) network.
24. A method according to claim 22, further comprising:
receiving information from the device via at least one of (a) the network and (b) a second network to which the device is connected, said information providing a basis for resolving the location of the device; and
determining a location of the device based on said information.
25. A method according to claim 22, wherein said broadcasting includes periodically broadcasting the disabling message at least one of (a) as plain text, (b) at least partially encrypted and (c) encoded according to a predetermined format.
26. A computer readable medium comprising computer executable modules having computer executable instructions for carrying out the method of claim 22.

27. A computing device comprising means for carrying out the method of claim 22.
28. An electronic device, comprising:
 - at least one component capable of being disabled via at least one local disabling signal;
 - a processing component coupled to the at least one component; and
 - a receiver communicatively coupled to said processing component for receiving a remote disabling signal targeting the device via a network, wherein in response to said receiver's reception of the remote disabling signal, said processing component electronically disables the device via said at least one component, wherein none of said at least one component, said processing component and said receiver can be removed without destroying the device.
29. A device according to claim 28, wherein the network is at least one of a wireless network, a radio broadcast network and a smart personal objects technology (SPOT) network.
30. A device according to claim 28, further comprising:
 - a display for displaying a message in response to receiving the remote disabling signal.
31. A device according to claim 28, wherein said at least one component is at least one connection and said processing component electronically disables the device by changing the status of the at least one connection from one of (a) open to closed and (b) closed to open.
32. A device according to claim 28, wherein said at least one component is at least one subcomponent of the device.
33. A device according to claim 28, wherein said at least one component is at least one portion of the processing component and said processing component electronically disables the device by disabling operation of said at least one portion of the processing component.
34. A device according to claim 28, further comprising:
 - a transmitter for transmitting information over at least one of (a) the network and (b) a second network to which the device is connected, said information providing a basis for resolving the location of the device.
35. A device according to claim 34, wherein said information includes at least one of an Internet Protocol address and a MAC (media access control) address.

36. A device according to claim 28, wherein the remote disabling signal is encoded at least one of (a) as plain text, (b) at least partially encrypted and (c) encoded according to a predetermined format.

37. A computing device, comprising:

means for receiving by the device a disabling signal targeting the device remotely via a network; and

means for electronically disabling, in response to receiving the disabling signal, the device via a component of the device that cannot be removed without destroying the device.

38. A computing device, comprising:

means for electronically disabling, in response to a timeout condition associated with receiving a message via a network targeted to the device, the device via a component of the device that cannot be removed without destroying the device.